

Hobbies

A rewarding hunt for a rare dime

By Roger Boye

Hey, can you spare a dime? An 1894-S dime, that is.

The first person to find one of the long-lost 1894s will win a free trip to Orlando, Fla., next August, courtesy of a group of rare-coin dealers. The lucky finder will reap a small fortune, because the coin could be worth \$50,000 or more, depending on its condition.

Just 24 dimes were made at the San Francisco Mint in 1894, apparently as gifts for some bankers. Modern-day records account for fewer than half of the 24 specimens, one of which sold for \$275,000 in a January 1990 auction. The Professional Numismatists Guild, Inc., is attempting to flush out some of the remaining rarities.

"We are asking the public to search through old coin collections, desk drawers, bank vaults, attics, basements and anywhere

else old coins might be kept," PNG president Ronald J. Gillio said late last month.

The first finder will win round-trip airfare and hotel accommodations for two nights to attend a national coin show next August in Orlando, where the coin will be on display. To report a discovery, write to Paul L. Koppenhaver, PNG executive director, P.O. Box 430, Van Nuys, Calif. 91408.

PNG experts will provide free authentication for any newly discovered, genuine 1894-S dimes. Many worthless forgeries exist.



Krause Publications has packed a mint-full of facts and figures into its latest book, "1992 North American Coins & Prices."

Much more than a price catalogue of U.S. coins, the book explains the minting process and how to care for and grade coins, among other things. The 496-page volume also includes retail

values for Canadian and Mexican (as well as U.S.) coins, each in several condition categories.

For a copy of the softbound book written by several Krause experts, send \$12.95 plus \$2.50 for shipping to Krause Publications, 700 E. State St., Iola, Wis. 54990. The book also is sold in some coin shops.



British officials have inserted a restyled 50-pence coin and a slimmed down 10-pence piece into their 1992 proof and uncirculated coin sets.

The new 50-pence depicts a conference table, stars and lines to symbolize the 12-member European Community and the United Kingdom's presidency of the European Council of Ministers. To order a nine-coin 1992 proof set in a blue case, send \$44.50 to the British Royal Mint, P.O. Box 2570, Woodside, N.Y. 11377. A nine-coin uncirculated set costs \$17.50.